

Adult Literacy Contact Centre NEWSLETTER



April 1992

Volume 5, Number 4

A project of the Adult Basic Education Association of B.C.

Call for Women's Literacy Projects

The Ministry of Advanced Education, Training and Technology and the National Literacy Secretariat have announced an extended deadline for 1992/1993 cost-shared proposals that specifically address the literacy needs of women.

Pat Hodgson, Provincial Literacy Coordinator, says the new application deadline for "proposals that focus on women and literacy" is May 4, 1992. The recommendation to extend the deadline was made by the B.C. External Advisory Committee, which met March 19 and 20 to review the 1992/93 project applications. The committee is a representative group of literacy practitioners from around the province.

A call to respond to the new deadline was sent by letter to the B.C. literacy field from Hodgson during the last week in March. In addition, says Hodgson, B.C. representatives on the mailing list of the Canadian Congress for Learning Opportunities for Women (CCLOW) were invited to apply. CCLOW defines itself as "a national, voluntary organization which promotes feminist education and the empowerment of women. It promotes networking, identifies barriers, investigates unmet needs, publicizes critical issues and organizes biannual conferences."

Proposals are to be submitted on the 1992/1993 cost-shared project application forms and should follow the *Criteria, Guidelines and Conditions for 1992/1993*.

The criteria state that cost-shared funds will provide financial support for the following types of projects: learning materials; research; access and outreach; coordination and information sharing; public awareness; and professional development opportunities for practitioners.

Groups eligible for cost-shared funding include colleges, school districts, literacy organizations, professional associations, task forces and community groups.

The guidelines and application forms are available from:

Susan Baptista
Office of the Provincial Literacy Coordinator
Ministry of Advanced Education, Training and
Technology
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, B.C.
V8V 1X4
Phone: 387-6189 ☐

BCHRD Looks at Foundation Education

A working forum of the Foundation Education planning committee of the B.C. Human Resource Development Project (BCHRD) was held April 9-11, 1992 in Vancouver.

The BCHRD is a two-year initiative of the Ministry of Advanced Education, Training and Technology. It was launched in January 1991 with a mandate to bring together B.C.'s major "stakeholders" in post-secondary education "to determine how education will do its part in preparing British Columbia for the economic and social challenges of the next decades."

The BCHRD's objective is to build consensus around policies and actions for the future of education and training in B.C.

The project is directed by Dr. Paul Gallagher, former president of Vancouver Community College. The BCHRD Steering Committee is chaired by Gary Mullins, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Advanced Education, Training and Technology. Its 18 members include representatives from education, business, labour and the First Nations Congress.

Foundation Education is one of nine policy areas determined by the BCHRD.

The BCHRD defines Foundation Education as, "education and training for adults (individuals who have left school) who wish to improve their effectiveness in life and/or work through:

- ❖ basic skills in thinking, literacy and numeracy;
- ❖ a secondary school graduation or equivalent;
- ❖ specific courses or skills for initial entry to work, career training or further academic studies;
- ❖ special services to assist in overcoming disabilities or disadvantages (socio-economic, cultural and others)."

Some classifications under Foundation Education are: Adult Basic Education, Adult Special Education, English as a Second Language, College Preparatory, and Basic Training for Skill Development.

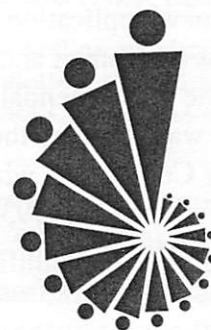
Issues in Foundation Education have been identified by an Equity Participation Advisory Committee, a Foundation Education Planning Committee, and by feedback from the Foundation Education field through regional meetings, focus groups and questionnaires.

The issues that have been established for Foundation Education concern: the current description of Foundation Education, client participation, service providers, impact of technology, system evaluation,

foundation education priority and effective instructors.

The objective of the April working forum was to "resolve the major issues identified in policy areas" through workshops and plenary sessions. Participation in the forum was by invitation of the Project Steering Committee.

Recommendations from the forum will be compiled in a report for review by the BCHRD Steering Committee. After the Committee reviews the reports from all nine policy area forums, a preliminary BCHRD project report will be published in the fall of 1992 and distributed for public input and amendment. The final project report is expected to be completed by March 1993.



For additional information on the BCHRD, contact:

B. C. Human Resource Development Project
c/o Simon Fraser University at
Harbour Centre
Room 2000
515 West Hastings Street
Vancouver, B.C.
V6B 5K3
Phone: 775-0285
Fax: 775-0291 ☐

A Literacy Thesaurus for Canada

The first edition of the *Canadian Literacy Thesaurus/Thesaurus canadien d'alphabetisation* — a bilingual indexing and retrieval tool for the adult literacy field — is due to be published this June.

The thesaurus is a product of the Canadian Literacy Thesaurus Coalition, formed in January 1990 from a range of ten English and French organizations, including the Association of Canadian Community Colleges, the Movement for Canadian Literacy, and the Canadian Library Association. It was funded by a grant from the National Literacy Secretariat.

An advisory committee, formed from representatives of the anglophone, francophone and bilingual members of the Canadian literacy community, also participated in the development of the project.

The thesaurus is intended as "a tool to assist resource centres, clearinghouses, libraries and community-based programs in analyzing and organizing literacy resources, thus making information and materials more available to the literacy community."

The first phase of the project was the development of a "termbank" of "as many as

possible of the words, terms and phrases used in the [literacy] field and its literature." Subsequent phases identified and grouped synonyms and equivalents, and collected feedback on a test version of the thesaurus from selected resource centres and literacy programs across Canada. (The B.C. test site was the Adult Literacy Contact Centre.)

The 600-page book of approximately 3400 terms (1700 in each language), will be available for sale to literacy groups, organizations and individuals, as well as institutions such as libraries and universities.

Michele Hudon, Project Coordinator, estimates the price of the thesaurus for literacy groups will be approximately \$25.00 and the institutional price \$45.00. (The price will include all taxes, postage and handling charges.)

"There will definitely be a sliding price scale, and literacy programs will get the thesaurus at below cost," says Hudon. Regular updates will be issued to purchasers following publication of the first edition.

For information, contact:

The Canadian Literacy Thesaurus Coalition
c/o Alpha Ontario
21 Park Road
Toronto, Ontario
M4W 2N1
Phone: (416) 393-7189
Fax: (416) 397-5915 ☐

Libraries and Literacy

A session on libraries and literacy will be held at the annual conference of the British Columbia Library Association May 21-24, 1992 at the Whistler (B.C.) Conference Centre. "Building Connections: Libraries and the Literacy Communities" features David Driedger, Courtenay Branch, Vancouver Island Regional Library; Thomas Quigley, Joe Fortes Branch, Vancouver Public Library; and Judy Wearmouth, Castlegar Public Library. The panel will discuss "the realities of working within provincial and local literacy groups." For information on how to register, contact:

The B.C. Library Association
110 - 6545 Bonsor Avenue
Burnaby, B.C.
V5H 1H3
Phone: 430-9633 ☐

Adult Literacy Contact Centre Newsletter

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Vancouver, B.C. V6B 1L8
1-800-663-1293 Toll-free in B.C.
684-0624 Lower Mainland
684-8520 Facsimile

The Adult Literacy Contact Centre is a project of the Adult Basic Education Association of B.C. and is jointly funded by the Ministry of Advanced Education, Training and Technology; and the National Literacy Secretariat.

The Centre welcomes receiving your literacy news by phone, fax or mail. We reserve the right to edit written submissions for the newsletter.

The newsletter is published monthly and mailed during the first week of every month. It is available free of charge to any individual or agency upon request.



"Breaking the Barriers" in Regina this Spring

Literacy policy directions and "good practice" in literacy programming will be the subjects of two workshops at a conference designed for adult education practitioners this spring in Regina.

The 1992 Canadian Association for Adult Education conference, "Breaking the Barriers: Equity and Access in Adult Education," will take place at the University of Regina June 17-20, 1992. The conference is co-sponsored by the Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology and the Saskatchewan Association for Lifelong Learning. Registration is open to educators, practitioners, administrators, students, and volunteers in the adult education field.

One of six conference themes is Practice of Adult Education: Enabling Participation. Participants giving workshops on this theme include John Daniel O'Leary, President, Frontier College, Toronto ("Literacy Policy Directions: Past, Present, Future"); and Cathy Wright, Saint John, New Brunswick Human Development Council ("Good Practice in Literacy Programs: What's Most Important for Adult Learners").

A panel on Prison Education includes Debra Rose, Coordinator, Simon Fraser University Prison Education Program at Matsqui Institution; and facilitator Flora MacLeod, Director, Justice Institute of British Columbia, Vancouver.

The conference features four keynote speakers: Rosemary Brown, former B.C. New Democratic MLA, and currently Executive Director of MATCH International; Pauline Couture, *Globe and Mail* weekly feature writer and president of Pauline Couture and Associates Inc., a Montreal strategy and communications consulting firm; Elijah Harper, Manitoba MLA (the first treaty Indian to be elected to the Manitoba legislature); and Neil McDonald, President, Cross Cultural Consulting Inc.



Early registration deadline is May 1, 1992.

For information, contact:

Breaking the Barriers
PO Box 556
Regina, Saskatchewan
S4P 3A3
Phone: (306) 787-4281
Fax: (306) 787-9562 ☐

Prairie Literacy Institute Deadline

May 1, 1992 is the final deadline for B.C. delegates to register for the first Prairie Literacy Institute to be held July 13-24, 1992 at the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon. The conference is open to a limited number of participants outside the three prairie provinces and the NWT on a first-come first-served basis after April 15, 1992.

The Institute will offer three concurrent morning courses and a selection of afternoon seminars. Two courses are aimed at beginning and experienced adult literacy tutors and practitioners. They are: Literacy Development I (Instructor: Jean Reston, adult education consultant, Yellowknife, NWT); and Literacy Development II (Instructor: Mary Norton, adult literacy educator, Edmonton). The third, for literacy practitioners exploring diagnosis, learning difficulties and learning styles, is "Learning Differences, Challenges and Difficulties (Instructor: Robin Millar, adult learning specialist, Manitoba Literacy Office).

The conference is sponsored by the Saskatchewan Literacy Network, the Literacy Workers' Alliance of Manitoba and the

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Literacy Coordinators of Alberta. It is funded by the National Literacy Secretariat.

The \$200 registration/tuition fee includes a choice of one course and any afternoon seminar, as well as the cost of shared accommodation. Participants will be selected on the basis of their experience in adult literacy.

For information contact:

Saskatchewan Literacy Network
PO Box 1520
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
S7K 3R5

Phone: (306) 653-7368, or
(306) 653-7178

Fax: (306) 933-6490 ☐

New Look for Literacy Materials Bulletin

The spring 1992 issue of the *Literacy Materials Bulletin* — the final one for the 1991/1992 fiscal year — was distributed to the field in early April.

The 28-page current issue has a revamped format, featuring a sample page from each of the materials alongside each full-page review. It also includes a revised form (on the back cover) to solicit input from the field.

The *Bulletin* is the cooperative effort of a 10-member committee formed in 1989 to

review and field test literacy materials. It has been published twice-yearly since spring 1990, as one of the literacy cost-shared projects between the Ministry of Advanced Education, Training and Technology and the National Literacy Secretariat.

The current issue features 13 reviews of material ranging from basic to the functional or independent level. Some of the material reviewed deals with the theme of family issues, including child abuse, pregnancy and child care.

The criteria for selection in the *Bulletin* are:

- ❖ currently in print
- ❖ adult oriented and interesting to learners
- ❖ free of bias from age, sex and race
- ❖ appropriate to the reading level of learners
- ❖ designed to encourage meaningful discussion and critical thinking
- ❖ up-to-date and easy to use
- ❖ successful with learners

Literacy Materials Committee Chairperson Joan Acosta reports three new members have been added to the committee for the 1992/1993

fiscal year. They are:

Sylvia Doherty, literacy instructor, Cariboo College, Williams Lake;
Sandi Lavallie, adult basic education instructor, Northwest Community College, Houston; and
Yana Sabanski, Coordinator, Hastings Adult Learning Centre, Vancouver.

The three replace Barbara Bate, University College of the Fraser Valley literacy instructor and Andrew Kennedy, Camosun College adult basic education instructor. Acosta reports that with this issue she is also stepping down as chairperson after serving three years. She will be replaced by Laurie Gould, adult basic education instructor, Vancouver Community College.

Additional copies of all five issues are available on request from the Adult Literacy Contact Centre. The materials reviewed in the current *Bulletin* are available on a loan basis for a period of one month from:

Literacy B.C.
Suite 1128
510 West Hastings Street
Vancouver, B.C.
V6B 1L8
Phone/Fax: 687-5077 ☐



***Ellen's Story* to Air in B.C. on April 28**

Ellen's Story, a new documentary film about a Victoria, B.C. woman's lifelong struggle with low literacy skills (and her eventual triumph), is scheduled to air April 28 at 9:00 p.m. on national television.

The film will be seen in B.C. on the CanWest/Global network in the UTV broadcast area of the Lower Mainland and southern Vancouver Island. Local cable stations and CBC affiliates may also air the broadcast in other regions of the province.

In addition, a National Film Board official video release of the film will be available for sale or rental to coincide with the broadcast.

Ellen's Story, from Robert Duncan Productions Inc. of Vancouver, traces the life of British-born Ellen Szita, who dropped out of school with approximately a Grade 5 reading level, and achieved a Grade 12 education at the age of 50. She currently lives and works in Victoria.

The B.C. Literacy Public Awareness Campaign (the B.C. literacy cost-shared project) has created a communications plan to take advantage of the broadcast to generate "spin-off" literacy activities in

communities throughout B.C.

The plan will provide the literacy field with the tools to promote the film, and to use it to generate continuing local interest in literacy issues.

The plan was created in conjunction with participants in the broadcast, including the film's producers, broadcasters, and ABC Canada.

The communications plan has two parts — a publicity plan and a media kit. The publicity plan contains the following components:

- ❖ suggestions for increasing the broadcast coverage of the film
- ❖ suggestions for using the National Film Board video to increase community awareness
- ❖ strategies for local literacy organizations to generate literacy interest in their communities through the local media
- ❖ suggestions for capitalizing on public interest created by the broadcast

The media kit, for use by literacy organizations in dealing with local coverage, includes: a press release about the documentary; a synopsis of *Ellen's Story*; background information on the filmmakers, information about

the B.C. Literacy Public Awareness Campaign; and literacy statistics.

Approximately 100 copies of the communications plan were distributed to the B.C. literacy field during the first week of April.

For further information and for additional copies of the communications plan, contact:

Linda Hackett, Member
Advisory Committee
B.C. Literacy Public Awareness
Campaign
(Adult Literacy Contact Centre)
Phone: 684-0624 (Lower Mainland)
or 1-800-663-1293 (toll-free in B.C.)
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OUR OTHER SERVICES

As well as producing this newsletter, the Adult Literacy Contact Centre has services for all B.C.:

we give information and encouragement by phone to adults who want to know about adult basic education opportunities in their own community;

we provide literacy information to the non-profit and community-based sector, business, labour, the media, all levels of government and the public at large; and

we refer volunteer tutors to adult literacy programs.

Phone free from anywhere in B.C.

1-800-663-1293